Mrs. Edwards' Essay.

LINCOLN

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THE SOLITUDE
OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

BY E. J. EDWARDS

Typical Reminiscences Illustrating a Life Whose Deepest Moments Were Lived Alone

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As time passes the historic Lincoln slowly but with ever-increasing clearness begins to be apprehended. The perspective in which history will see him is now faintly recognized. The superficial and trivial aspects of his character, mere surface and incidental traits or habits, were in his lifetime and for a generation after his death the subject of much that was written or said of him. Many men of ability and high cultivation who were of Lincoln's generation were unable to make explanation to themselves, when contemplating Lincoln's career, of the extraordinary and paradoxical diversities of his nature. He seemed to be two personalities, one flippant, often of undignified conduct and speech; the other the possessor of as tender a heart as any of which history has made record, allied to marvelous intellectual power and the mystic gift of the seer or prophet. Some men of his day were never wholly reconciled to the view those who were nearest Lincoln were compelled to take of his moral grandeur, intellectual supremacy, ineffable patience, capacity for enduring suffering without complaint, and of the supreme solitude in which he lived.

Lincoln's intimate companions were those known only to his inner nature; and he possessed to a degree surpassed by none of the world's great characters the

sense of solitude. Genius has no intimates. The great soul can make no confession, except to its Maker, of its aspirations and inspirations.

That sense of Lincoln's solitude was at times powerfully impressed upon his associates in the National Administration. One or two of them perceived that his saving grace of humor served to mask or shield the hermit solitude of his real life, or else to give momentary relief to it. Charles A. Dana, who was a keen and accurate observer of men, fathomed much sooner than did Dana's chief, Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln's Secretary of War, the impulse that led Lincoln to turn in times of great stress to Petroleum V. Nasby's brilliantly humorous irony and read it in merriment as though the fate of the nation were not at issue.

On the evening of the Presidential election of 1864, Lincoln went from the White House to the old War Office to hear any returns that might be there received. He sat upon a sofa in Stanton's office, making merry over one of Nasby's letters. The grim Secretary of War said to Mr. Dana: "I wish you would look at Lincoln, sitting on that sofa, roaring over Nasby's nonsense, while at this moment throughout the Union they are counting the votes to find out whether Lincoln has been re-elected, or McClellan has beaten him. You wouldn't think it mattered the toss of a copper to him." But Dana knew better, and in after years he spoke to the writer of the incident.

To him there was infinite pathos that there should be need for Lincoln to seek relief from the tremendous strain of that day and from his high sense of the world-moving responsibility imposed upon him, as he believed by the Divine Ruler, and by those who would save the Union. Until late that night Lincoln was in solitary and solemn self-communion, and what was

then whispered to him could not be translated, for it was not spoken to his soul in the language of men. Of that night of solitude one of Lincoln's truest friends, David Davis, had what he believed to be perfect proof.

Early in Lincoln's first administration he revealed himself to his Secretary of State, impressively and with his first understanding, as a man of supreme solitude. For when Seward submitted to the President at one of the first Cabinet meetings a paper containing an offer to relieve Lincoln from the responsibility of conceiving and directing the policy of the Administration, Lincoln replied with gentleness of speech and without any resentment, by saying no more than this, namely, that he must alone decide and do what was necessary to be decided and done. And Seward then first caught a glimpse of the solitude and of the moral grandeur of this man. The Secretary of State then determined that he would thereafter give loyal, constant, unhesitating support to Lincoln, and to that pledge Seward was faithful.

An anecdote related to Gen. Thomas L. James at the time he was Postmaster General in Garfield's Cabinet illustrates the supreme solitude of Lincoln. A member of the Senate Committee on the Conduct of the War in Lincoln's first Administration said to General James that as time passed the world would have clearer understanding of Lincoln's solitude, and the Senator went on to say, that his first understanding of Lincoln as a man of solitude was upon an occasion when the Senator was serving as a member of the Senate Committee on the Conduct of the War.

"You remember, doubtless," said the Senator to General James, "that during a crucial period of the war many malicious stories were in circulation, based upon the suspicion that Mrs. Lincoln was in sympathy with the Confederacy. These reports were inspired

by the fact that some of Mrs. Lincoln's relatives were in the Confederate service. At last reports that were more than vague gossip were brought to the attention of some of my colleagues in the Senate. They made specific accusation that Mrs. Lincoln was giving important information to secret agents of the Confederacy. These reports were laid before my committee and the committee thought it an imperative duty to investigate them, although it was the most embarrassing and painful task imposed upon us.

"I had of course often met President Lincoln at the White House and been impressed by his command over himself and by the sense of authority and strength which he imparted to all who were in touch with him on matters of public business. I never saw the patient, anxious and wearied expression which some of my associates now and then noticed, but I did see and hear some of the unconventional ways and speech, of which the public heard so much.

"One morning our committee purposed taking up the reports that imputed disloyalty to Mrs. Lincoln. The sessions of the committee were necessarily secret. We had just been called to order by the Chairman, when the officer stationed at the committee room door opened it and came in with a half-frightened, half-embarrassed expression on his face. Before he had opportunity to make explanation, we understood the reason for his excitement, and were ourselves almost overwhelmed by astonishment. For at the foot of the table, standing solitary, his hat in his hand, his tall form towering above the committee members, Abraham Lincoln stood. Had he come by some incantation, thus appearing of a sudden before us unannounced, we could not have been more astounded.

"The pathos that was written upon Lincoln's face, the almost unhuman sadness that was in his eyes

as he looked upon us, and above all an indescribable sense of his complete isolation—the sad solitude which is inherent in all true grandeur of character and intellect—all this revealed Lincoln to me and I think to every member of the committee in the finer, subtler light whose illumination faintly set forth the fundamental nature of this man. No one spoke, for none knew what to say. The President had not been asked to come before the committee, nor was it suspected that he had information that we were to investigate the reports, which, if true, fastened treason upon his family in the White House.

"At last Lincoln spoke, slowly, with infinite sorrow in his tone, and he said—

" 'I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, appear of my own volition before this Committee of the Senate to say that, I, of my own knowledge, know that it is untrue that any of my family hold treasonable communication with the enemy.'

"Having said that, Lincoln went away as silently and solitary as he came. We sat for some moments speechless. Then by tacit agreement, no word being spoken, the committee dropped all consideration of the rumors that the wife of the President was betraying the Union. We had seen Abraham Lincoln in the solemn and isolated majesty of his real nature. We were so greatly affected that the committee adjourned for the day."

While speaking of Lincoln nearly twenty years after Lincoln's death Judge Davis said that as time passed he more and more realized what during his intimate association with Lincoln he did not perceive, namely, that it was the unconscious and unreasoned recognition of the deeper and the real character of Lincoln that gave him his unquestioned leadership

among the plain people. They penetrated beyond the mask and shield with which Lincoln protected his solitude of mind and soul. The plain people did this with keener, surer insight than that of many with whom he was brought into professional association.

So acute a man as Edwin M. Stanton was had not the slightest understanding of Lincoln, until after Stanton served under Lincoln as Secretary of War. And it was Judge Davis's opinion that in no way did Lincoln reveal his supreme ability as a leader as well as his moral greatness, better than when he named Stanton for Secretary of War, not permitting the sad recollection of the snub and sneer with which Stanton had once received him as associate counsel to affect his judgment of Stanton's ability.

And when Lincoln selected McClellan for the Commander of the Army of the Potomac, Judge Davis recalled the brusque and arbitrary treatment of Lincoln by McClellan a few years earlier, for Judge Davis had personal knowledge of that incident. Then Lincoln was esteemed as no more than a prairie lawyer, while McClellan had already gained national reputation as the engineer who constructed a bridge over the Mississippi.

These and others who were numbered among the able men of that day were partly blinded to the fundamental moral and mental greatness of Lincoln, for his solitude concealed it, but the plain people had clearer vision. And that, Judge Davis said, has been true of all the leaders truly great since history was first written.

Gilbert Finch is now spending the years of his old age in comfortable retirement at his boyhood home in Connecticut. He was for nearly fifty years a conductor on the Chicago and Alton Railroad. Many times Lincoln was a passenger on Mr. Finch's train. A cordial

acquaintance was established between them. So also Mr. Finch carried Stephen A. Douglas and Lyman Trumbull and Norman Judd and David Davis and others of the group of brilliant Illinois politicians of Lincoln's day.

Mr. Finch, who now frequently relates to his friends something of the personality of these men, all of whom except Lincoln are almost forgotten, recently said:

"Lincoln was the most folksy of any of them. He put on no airs. He did not hold himself distant from any man. But there was something about him which we plain people couldn't explain that made us stand a little in awe of him. I now know what it was, but didn't then. It was because he was a greater man than any other one we had ever seen. You could get near him in a sort of neighborly way, as though you had always known him, but there was something tremendous between you and him all the time. I have eaten with him many times at the railroad eating houses, and you get very neighborly if you eat together in a railroad restaurant, at least we did in those days. Everybody tried to get as near Lincoln as possible when he was eating, because he was such good company, but we always looked at him with a kind of wonder. We couldn't exactly make him out. Sometimes I would see what looked like dreadful loneliness in his look, and I used to wonder what he was thinking about. Whatever it was he was thinking all alone. It wasn't a solemn look, like Stephen A. Douglas sometimes had. Douglas sometimes made me think of an owl. He used to stare at you with his great dark eyes in a way that almost frightened you. Lincoln never frightened anybody. No one was afraid of him, but there was something about him that made plain folks feel toward him a good deal as a child feels toward his

father, because you know every child looks upon his father as a wonderful man."

Gilbert Finch, the veteran of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, is after his years of varied experience in Illinois still one of the plain people.

When Lincoln went to New York City to deliver the now traditional Cooper Union address on February 27, 1860, Cephas Brainerd, one of the foremost lawyers of New York, and in 1860 a member of the so-called Young Republican Association, was Chairman of the committee appointed to receive and entertain Lincoln. It was Lincoln's expectation that the address would be delivered in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, but the plans were altered.

At that time it was the expectation of the Republicans of New York that William H. Seward would be nominated for President by the convention which was to meet at Chicago in the Spring of 1860 and that Abraham Lincoln would be nominated for Vice-President.

Lincoln, in his debates with Stephen A. Douglas in 1858, gained the first recognition by the Republicans of the East. It was therefore partly due to the expectation that Lincoln would be named for Vice-President with Seward as candidate for President, and in part to the echoes of the renown Lincoln had gained in the West in the series of joint debates with Douglas, that Lincoln's visit to New York by invitation to speak on the moral and political issues of the time was deemed the political event of that Winter. It was expected that his speech, or lecture, as Lincoln called it, would in some measure open the National Republican campaign. Yet there was a half expectation that the great men of New York would be disappointed, and that it might be discovered that what passed for great public speaking on the prairies of Illinois would

not meet the high standard established in New York by William M. Evarts and William H. Seward.

Mr. Brainerd discovered while giving courteous and cordial reception to Lincoln some hint of that inner and fundamental quality of Lincoln's nature. The unconventional manner did not conceal the sublime dignity that lay behind it. Mr. Lincoln met an old acquaintance while Mr. Brainerd was escorting him through Wall street. Mr. Lincoln was in high good spirits. He asked his old friend how he had done since he had entered Wall street to make a fortune, and was told that the fortune had at last reached a hundred thousand dollars.

"Isn't that enough?" Mr. Lincoln asked. "I should call myself a rich man if I had that much. I've got my house at Springfield and about three thousand dollars. And if they make me Vice-President with Seward, as some say they will, I expect to save enough to make me feel comfortable the rest of my life."

Lincoln said that in sincerity, and Mr. Brainerd wondered how it could be that a man who was successful enough to be thought worthy to be made Vice-President with Seward could look upon so small a sum as sufficient fortune.

Lincoln went to his hotel to prepare for the severely critical test that was to be made of him that evening by the foremost intellects of New York; yet he showed no concern. Mr. Brainerd wondered whether or not Lincoln realized that the standard by which New York would measure him that evening, was very high and that he must stand or fall by the measurement. Lincoln had spoken of the address to no one except Horace Greeley, and to him simply to arrange for the publication of the speech from the manuscript in The Tribune next morning and further to inquire at

what hour he could call at The Tribune office to look at the proof slips.

Some who were with Lincoln at the hotel and who were to share in the escort of him to Cooper Union were astonished that he should be without anxiety and free from nervous apprehension. Had he been about to take a pleasure excursion he could not have been less concerned.

A few moments before Lincoln was introduced to the Cooper Union audience, which was representative of the highest intellectual power in New York, Mr. Brainerd observed a slight and very subtle change in Lincoln's manner. There came a prophet-like serenity. The superficial attitude was gone. It had been thrown off like a cloak, and there was not one in that great audience who did not on the instant find himself in the presence of a master mind and a great soul.

The penetrating eyes of the leaders of the American bar, some of whom were to be spokesmen for Seward at the National Convention, were fixed steadily upon Lincoln. The great lawyers seemed so fascinated by the prairie lawyer that it was impossible for them to take their eyes off him.

The perfect rhetorical form of the address, the crystalline clearness of the verbal expression, the lack of sentimental appeal or of cheap rhetorical flourish, the steady appeal of reason to the intellect, and the supreme art of speaking, which is the art of persuading and convincing, and a solemnity of manner and utterance which with overwhelming force conveyed the sense of the tremendous issues involved—namely, that the Nation could not endure half slave, half free—all this demonstrated to the men of New York who then heard Lincoln that the standard that they had fixed was too slender and slight a standard by which to measure Lincoln, and that he had established anoth-

er standard beyond the capacity of any man of New York to measure up to. Throughout the address there were glimpses of the immense solitude in which this man lived.

The manuscript of the Cooper Union address was tossed into the Tribune's composing room waste paper bin after the proof slips had been read and revised. A half hour before midnight Lincoln called at The Tribune office and was shown to the little room where the proof-readers scrutinized the galley proofs. The proof-reader who was comparing the proofs with Lincoln's manuscript was the late Amos J. Cummings, who afterward represented a New York City district in Congress for several terms. Lincoln drew a chair beside Cummings, adjusted his glasses and under the glare of the gas light read each proof with scrupulous care. Never before had he opportunity to witness the throbbing life of a great newspaper at the hour when the tension is most tense—the hour before the presses begin to whirl with fierce energy.

But the animation, the hurried steps, the clanging of the form, the vizored compositors clicking the type in their composing sticks, and the vast, orderly confusion of midnight in the composing room of a great newspaper did not distract or in any way interest Lincoln. His manner was that of a man accustomed to these midnight sights and sounds.

When the proofs were read and corrected, revised proofs were prepared for him, and these he read with care. After that he said a pleasant word or two to Mr. Cummings,* and then went away unescorted

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The proof-reading of the address in The Tribune office by Mr. Lincoln on the evening of its delivery in Cooper Union and the loss of the manuscript are incidents which were related with much detail by Mr. Cummings to Mr. Edwards and assure their authenticity.

through Printing House Square, and across City Hall Park to the Astor House.

In another place some of the great intellects that heard Lincoln speak that night were confiding to one another the sense of marvelous intellectual power with which the address impressed them. Mr. Evarts invited a few friends to go with him to his house at Fourteenth street and Second avenue, a short distance from Cooper Union. They were among the elect of New York's intellect, and they talked with one another until long past midnight of the serene intellectual grandeur of which the address gave competent evidence.

There was always eager curiosity to learn how and when Lincoln prepared this address, but that curiosity was never gratified. The solitude of Lincoln when in the presence of great opportunity and responsibility was the isolation in which he lived when preparing the Cooper Union address. So far as is known he consulted no one, when preparing it, nor did he read it in whole or in part to any one, before he spoke upon the Cooper Union platform.

David Davis, Lincoln's early and life-long friend, whom Lincoln nominated for Justice of the United States Supreme Court, said to the present writer that aside from the statement Lincoln made to his Illinois friends that he had accepted an invitation to speak to the Republicans of New York City, he made no other allusion to the address.

He did say to Judge Davis, by way of explaining the invitation, that some one in New York had learned that it was his intention to pay a visit to his son, who was a student at Harvard, some time in February. To this Lincoln said he owed the invitation to stop over in New York, so that the Republicans of that city might

hear what he had to say upon the issues that people were then facing.

The suspicion was aroused that, impelled by his supreme instinct for great politics, Lincoln determined to find a way by which he might, without seeming to volunteer, speak to the Republicans of the East. Excepting in the campaign of 1848, when Lincoln was an obscure member of Congress, he had never visited the Eastern States. In that campaign he spoke at Worcester, Mass. David Davis was always convinced that the contemplated speech was the inspiration for his visit to Harvard.

Lincoln had no other material for the preparation of the Cooper Union address than the reports of the proceedings and debates in the convention that framed the Constitution of the United States, several of the speeches of Webster, and two or three of the decisions written by Chief Justice Marshall of the Supreme Court. These he must have absorbed by prolonged and intense study, although no one knew that he was thus occupied. He was in perfect mental solitude. His companions were these few books and his thoughts. In that isolation he prepared the address by which he conquered the intellect of New York.

In this solitude all of his addresses were prepared, and he made confidants of no one excepting in two instances. The Emancipation Proclamation was read to his Cabinet, not for approval or disapproval, but only for suggestions for verbal changes. One change, counseled by the Secretary of the Treasury, Judge Chase, was accepted by Lincoln.

Four years earlier he confided to some of his friends a portion of his speech prepared for delivery in the Illinois campaign for the election of a successor to Stephen A. Douglas in the Federal Senate. Lincoln

was the candidate of the Republicans, Douglas of the Democracy.

The friends counseled Lincoln against delivering the portion of the speech which he repeated to them, saying, "It will defeat you and re-elect Douglas to the Senate."

And Lincoln replied: "Yes. But if Douglas takes that shoot, he can never be elected President." And it was as Lincoln predicted. Douglas was re-elected Senator, but he took the "shoot" in replying to Lincoln, and thereby split the National Democracy. No one knew that Lincoln had prepared the now traditional Chicago speech, beginning, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

In his solitude Lincoln wrote that sentence, and no man heard it until it was delivered. Yet if he were then nursing ambition to be President, he risked it upon that speech.

Judge Davis spoke of the two inaugural addresses, that with which Lincoln began his first, and the brief and beautiful words spoken at his second inauguration. Lincoln must have written the first inaugural address at odd moments in the early Winter of 1861. Yet few leisure moments were permitted him. Many politicians visited him at Springfield, and came away, as the late Judge Kelley of Pennsylvania did, in much perplexity and anxiety. Judge Kelley took life and his long service in Congress very seriously, and when the President-elect turned the visit of Judge Kelley into something like boys' play, for he asked the Judge to measure height with him, standing back to back, the Pennsylvania Republican wondered what manner of man this prairie lawyer was, and whether he was to take the horse play of the prairies into the White House.

Years afterward Judge Kelley said to the writer: "I now understand what then seemed to me an amazingly undignified performance for a man who was to be President in a few months. Lincoln in this way threw me off. He did not want to talk politics with any one, for he was in perfect communion with himself."

In the choice of his Cabinet Lincoln was relieved of embarrassment by deciding to invite each one of those who had received a considerable vote for nomination for the Presidency at the Chicago Convention. Seward he was to name Secretary of State, Chase Secretary of the Treasury, Judge Bates Attorney General, and Simon Cameron Secretary of War, in recognition of the vital support Pennsylvania gave Lincoln's candidacy at the very critical moment of the convention. Thus the Cabinet almost formed itself, although first formed mentally by Lincoln. But Lincoln was much occupied for some weeks in inducing Seward to accept the offer of the State Department.

With the exception of formal and perfunctory communications, which may have been prepared by a secretary, all of Lincoln's correspondence at that time was written by himself, and must have required several hours each day. These letters of the Winter of 1861 are good evidence of the perfect mental solitude in which Lincoln dwelt in those momentous months. Not one of them discloses what was in his mind. He wrote to be informed of men and of situations, but he gave no hint of his reason for wishing the information. There is stupendous solitude behind them.

Yet at some time between January and mid-February, 1861, Lincoln prepared the inaugural address. No one knows when. None can tell, although possibly the late John Hay could have done so, what hours he set apart for the writing of it. The exquisite beauty and perfect dignity of the language used, the kindli-

ness tempered with sadness that ran through the address, the fundamental thought, solemn and defiant, giving warning that the duty, namely, to preserve the Union, was his highest obligation under his oath of office—these came from that solitude in which the address was prepared. That, at least, was the view of Judge Davis.

So, too, the second inaugural, with its matchless prose, its pathos and glowing hope of a speedily restored Union, was conceived in solitude, penned with no eye to see or ear to hear. It was presumed that the brief Gettysburg oration would become the classic American utterance, and that Lincoln in it had mastered the supreme art, wherein prose is greater than any poetry. Yet one passage in the second inaugural is esteemed worthy to stand engraved beside the few words spoken on the Gettysburg battlefield.

Various versions of the preparation of the Gettysburg address have been given. Although these versions differ in narrating the time and manner of writing the address, yet all are in agreement upon the important and characteristic points. Whether Lincoln wrote the address in a railway train while on the way to Gettysburg, or penned it in the White House on the morning of that dedicatory day, or spent some part of the evening before in preparing it, is of little interest. Wherever he composed it, whenever he put it upon paper, it was conceived and perfected in solitude. He read no famed funeral oration that he might get inspiration. He consulted no books. The English of the Bible and of Shakespeare had been absorbed by him, so that he spoke and thought in it, and this was his vehicle of expression. He told no one any secret of the composition. Many inquiries were made. He was content to let the address give the only

answer. And, as was said of Shakespeare, so it might be said of Lincoln:

"Others abide our question. Thou art free.
We ask and ask—Thou smilest and art still.
Self-schooled, self-scanned, self-honored, self-secure."

Edward McPherson, member of Congress from the Gettysburg district, said to the writer that Lincoln rode with him from Washington to Gettysburg on the morning of the dedication day. At some time on the trip Mr. Lincoln took a sheet of note paper from his pocket and resting that upon his knee penciled a few lines upon it. From this paper Lincoln read the address, for Mr. McPherson recognized the sheet of paper.

But if Mr. McPherson's memory actually recalled the circumstance, yet Lincoln was merely putting upon paper what he had already written mentally. That was a mere clerical matter. The immortal oration was written in solitude.

Lincoln rarely made any allusion to the time or the place of writing, and he never spoke of the inspiration that was behind any of his addresses. It is probable he could have done so only in the vaguest way. For solitude like that with which he was encompassed is not to be interpreted by any words. It is beyond language.

Of the New England States, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut held annual elections until recent years in the early Spring. These elections in the year 1860 were of more than local or State consequence. They were to be the first test of public sentiment that would have ultimate expression at the Presidential election in the Fall. Connecticut was to make the severest test, since in that State there was no stable, dependable majority for either the Republican

or the Democratic Party. The annual election in that State took place on the first Monday of April. The Rhode Island election and that of New Hampshire occurred about the same time.

So profound was the impression made by Lincoln's Cooper Union address that the managers of the Republican campaign in Connecticut and Rhode Island earnestly invited him to make two or three speeches in each State. There appeared to be abundant opportunity to speak in Connecticut and Rhode Island if Lincoln could make a leisurely itinerary from New York to Cambridge. He was able to promise three speeches in Connecticut and one in Rhode Island. The Connecticut committee selected New Haven and Hartford, then the two capitals of the State, and Norwich. The candidate for Governor, William A. Buckingham, was a citizen of Norwich. He was then Governor and a candidate for re-election.

Incidentally it may be of present interest to report that there was no question in Connecticut on the day after the election that the addresses made by Lincoln saved the State to the Republicans. The majority was slender, a little over 500, but it was interpreted throughout the country as foreshadowing the vote of the Northern States in the Presidential election in November. In this brief campaigning excursion in Connecticut Lincoln received constant assurances that the Connecticut Republicans would support him for the Vice-Presidential nomination.

At the Norwich meeting Lincoln and Gov. Buckingham met for the first time. They were to meet many times during Lincoln's Presidency, and were to establish intimate relations, for Buckingham was known as one of the great War Governors. At the first instant of the meeting between Lincoln and Gov. Buckingham the Governor could not escape some sense

of disappointment, wondering if it were true that this was the man who had overthrown "The Little Giant" in the terrific verbal combat in Illinois, the man who had delivered the widely-famed "House Divided Against Itself" speech and the man who had gained the amazing triumph on the Cooper Union platform.

The Connecticut Governor was a courtly gentleman of the so-called "old school," and he differed not from the men of ability in New England in esteeming elegance and conventional propriety of manners as some part of the equipment of those who of right commanded homage for their intellectual achievements.

Lincoln greeted the Governor in a whimsical, homespun way, so that the Governor was momentarily distressed, but later, when listening to Lincoln, Gov. Buckingham found himself thinking, "What manner of man is this who speaks? Is this the man whom I saw this afternoon? It is he, yet another and a wonderful man, such as I never before saw or heard." That was what Gov. Buckingham said some years later was impressed upon him as he listened to Lincoln. And so profound was the impression made by Lincoln upon the audience that when he closed and turned to quit the platform no man moved, none cheered, nor was there any applause by hand-clapping or stamping of the feet. It was the perfect tribute of silence. The recognition of intellectual supremacy and moral sublimity is best acknowledged in that way. But when applause did begin it was overwhelming.

The proof reading of the address in The Tribune office by Mr. Lincoln on the evening of its delivery at Cooper Union and the loss of the manuscript are incidents which were related with much detail by him in writings to Mr. Edwards and assure their authenticity.

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